3. The relevant provisions of FDI policy for "investment companies", as given in Press Note 2 (2000 series) dated 11.2.2000 issued by department of Industrial Policy and Promotion will no longer be applicable to telecom sector.

4. An initial correction time of 4 months from the date of issue of this notification shall be allowed to the existing licensee companies providing telecom services mentioned in para 1 above for ensuring adherence to the aforesaid conditions. An unconditional compliance to the aforesaid conditions shall be submitted to the licensor within this period.

5. Press Note 15 (1998 series) and Press Note 2 (2000 series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion stand modified to the above extent.

Sd/-
(UMESH KUMAR)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Computerization of post offices in Andhra Pradesh

1343. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the post offices proposed to be computerized in the Tenth Five Year Plan under Plan Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the innovative methods used or proposed to be used by the Department of Posts to generate more revenue and to compete with the private players; and

(c) what is the function of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and what basic facilities are provided by these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 104 Head Post Offices and 361 large Sub Post Offices having more than two public counters are proposed for computerization in Andhra Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Till date, all Heads Post Offices and 348 large Sub Post Offices have been provided with computers.

(b) The Department of Posts has introduced several new services like e-post, e-Bill Post, Direct Post, Media Post, Business Post, Express

Parcel Post, Instant Money Order Service, "Children Policy" in Post Life Insurance as well as in Rural Post Life Insurance to increase its revenue and to compete with the private players. A number of value additions like free pick-up track and trace, volume based discount, credit facility are offered in Speed Post Service. Another innovative method recently introduced by the Department is allowing postmen to sell postage stamps and stationery and to collect letters from customers during their delivery rounds.

(c) The Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra (PSSK) is an economical means for providing basic postal facilities in the rural areas where opening of a regular post office is not justified. The PSSK provides the facilities of sale of postage stamps and stationery and booking of registered articles.

One India Scheme

1344. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'One India Scheme' to be introduced by BSNL and MTNL from Ist March, 2006 is not beneficial to a subscriber who makes less than forty local calls a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of beneficiaries of One India Scheme, as on date, State-wise, urban and rural area-wise and category-wise;

(c) where steps will be taken to retain present rent and free calls; and

(d) the steps taken so that ordinary subscribers of rural areas are benefited by the above "One India Scheme" and "the death of distance"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. While theoretically there can be a section of consumers who may not get the benefit under One-India Scheme, the scheme is beneficial to most consumers considering the basket of usage of an average customer.

(b) It is too early to assess the number of beneficiaries of One India Scheme as the scheme has been launched *w.e.f.* 1st March, 2006.

(c) The present rent and free calls in General Plan as well as additional alternative packages are available to all customers including rural subscribers in addition to optional scheme of "One India".

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.